



Testimony in Support

**LD 1703 An Act To Create Equity for Wine and Spirits Container Deposits**

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee my name is Christine Cummings. I am a resident of Sidney. I am the new Executive Director of the Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association.

The Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association is a business trade association representing Maine's food community; main street businesses including independently owned and operated grocery stores and supermarkets, food and beverage producers and processors, wholesalers, distributors, and supportive service companies.

We are speaking in support of LD 1703, the proposal to equalize the wine and spirits deposits. Maine has worked to have competitive spirits pricing and a reduction in the deposit could aid in losing sales to our neighboring state which does not have sales tax nor returnable deposits. This would put Maine in line with all other states who have container deposit legislation in which all deposits are the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.